

SHAIKH ALLAMAH ABDUL KADIR SAHIB

(Rahimahullah)

AL-HAAJ HAFIZ QARI ALLAMAH ABDUL KADIR SAHIB, one of the oldest Ulama, passed away on Saturday. August 23 at his residence in Woodhurst, Chatsworth at the age of 94 years (97 years according to the Islamic Lunar Calendar).

He was born in Durban, April 20 1904, and lost his parents at an early age. Being orphaned at such an early age, he was fortunate to have found care at the Soofie Sahib Centre, at Riverside Durban, under the great care and guardianship of Dada Jaan, the elder son of the great reformer Hazrat Soofie Sahib. At an early age he had shown great keenness in Islamic education and he was thus encouraged to pursue higher Islamic education. In the early days of Islam in Natal. the Soofie Centre at Riverside was the hub of Islamic activities.

At the tender age of 15 years, he had completed the study of such great Persian works like the Gulistaan, Bustaan and Kareema, regarded as prerequisites for higher studies overseas. Because of this and other achievements, he was sponsored by the generous people of Durban, to further his studies at the Darul Uloom in India. In 1919 he left the shores of South Africa via ship. He first studied at Madrasah Mazaahirul Uloom, in Saharanpur, UP and thereafter at the famous Madrasah Ameeniyah in Delhi under the Grand Mufti of India at that time, Mufti Kifaayatullah Sahib (Rahimahullah). Having completed most of his early studies, at these two institutions, he was advised to carry out his final stage of the 'Aalim Course' at the Darul Uloom at Deoband. However, in 1928 the luminaries and doyens of Islamic scholarship had moved over to Daabhel, in Surat. So he moved over there and graduated in 1930. Among his Ustaaz (tutors) were intellectual giants such as Shaikh Maulana Anwar Shah Kashmiri (R.A) and Shaikh Maulana Shabbeer Ahmad Usmani (R.A.).

He returned to South Africa in 1931 and took on his first assignment at Stanger, as Imam and Ustaaz. A year later he married and then moved to Verulam where he was also an Imam and Ustaaz. He moved to Durban in 1943, holding the post firstly as principal at the Madrasah Shaukatul Islam in Essendene Road, Sydenham and thereafter at Madrasah Mazaahirul Uloom in Villa Road, Sydenham. In the early fifties up to mid seventies, for twenty five years, he was Imam of the Muhammadiyyah Masjid, Sparks Road, Sydenham. During this time he went to the great Al-Azhar University, in Cairo, at his own cost, and successfully achieved the highest diploma, from the Kuliyatul Lughah (Dept of Arabic Language), equivalent to a Ph.D. He then moved to Chatsworth and was Imam of the Masjid An-Noor in Unit seven, for seven years. During the last part of his life, he was in great demand as guest Imam in the various Masaajid in and around Durban, where he delivered **tafsir of the Noble Quran**. He always stressed the point that people should get back to their roots i.e.e the Qur' an and Sunnah. He was very much attached to the late Shaikh Abu Bakr Najjar (R.A.) of Cape Town whom he visited quite regularly because of his contact with Al-Azhar.

Being tutored by his learned father, his son Abdul Haq had also compiled a **unique tafsir of Surah Yasin** which can be downloaded for free from the website www.ummahreflections.co.za under special articles.

Among the mourners were hundreds of his students and members of the community whom he had served very eagerly. They all expressed the same great joy, to be either taught by him, their marriage officiated by him and now to be present at his funeral which they all said was one of the largest ever in Durban. After the funeral prayers at the Grey Street Jumu'ah Masjid, he was put to rest at the Flower Road Muslim Cemetery in Clairwood, Durban.

He had left behind 6 sons and four daughters, and a host of grand and great grandchildren. May Allah grant him Jannatul Firdaus. Ameen.

*Abdul Haq Abdul Kadir
c/o REFLECTIONS e-Newsletter
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